



### Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council

Allocations and Funding Sources	2013	Recommendation to the Board FY13 Strategies and Allotments
<b>FY Allocation</b>	<b>\$227,338</b>	
Population Based Allocation	\$125,912	
Discretionary Allocation	\$72,971	
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	\$28,455	
<b>Carry Forward From Previous Year</b>	<b>\$89,246</b>	
<b>Total Regional Council Funds Available</b>	<b>\$316,584</b>	
Strategies	Proposed Allotment	
Child Care Health Consultation (statewide)	\$5,040	Recommend approval
Scholarships non-TEACH	\$1,500	Recommend approval
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity	\$27,102	Recommend approval
Parent Outreach and Awareness	\$60,000	Recommend approval
Quality First (statewide)	\$36,112	Recommend approval
Quality First Child Care Scholarships (statewide)	\$121,441	Recommend approval
Statewide Evaluation (statewide)	\$6,290	Recommend approval
<b>Proposed Allotment Total:</b>	<b>\$257,485</b>	
<b>Total Unallotted</b>	<b>\$59,099</b>	

**COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

**Regional Funding Plan  
Three Year Strategic Direction  
SFY 2013-2015**

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Funds Available State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2012- 2015

**II. Review of SFY 2012 Funding Plan**

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SFY 2013 -2015 Regional Partnership Council Budget

**Section I.****Regional Allocation Summary**

Funds Available State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2012- 2015

**Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council**

<b>Allocations and Funding Sources</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>FY Allocation</b>	<b>\$226,704</b>	<b>\$227,338</b>	<b>\$227,793</b>	<b>\$228,647</b>
Population Based Allocation	\$129,215	\$125,912	<i>(fy14 and fy15 allocations are estimates only, for purposes of planning)</i>	
Discretionary Allocation	\$75,257	\$72,971		
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	\$22,232	\$28,455	\$227,793	\$228,647
<b>Carry Forward From Previous</b>	<b>\$153,178</b>	<b>\$89,246</b>	<b>\$59,099</b>	<b>\$29,407</b>
<b>Total Regional Council Funds</b>	<b>\$379,882</b>	<b>\$316,584</b>	<b>\$286,892</b>	<b>\$258,054</b>

## **Section II.**

### **Review of SFY 2012 Funding Plan**

#### **II A. SFY 2012 Regional Partnership Council Priorities**

The Colorado Indian Tribes (CRIT) Regional Council prioritized the 2012 strategies according to the geographical location of the CRIT region, accessibility of services, and gaps within the existing services for the region's families with young children. A thorough analysis of the impact of the SFY 2010 and SFY 2011 funded strategies helped the Council determine that strategies need to be realistically funded to assist in building a solid, early childhood system. The Regional Council defined regional strategies within the universal tier, which focused on the following: Access to Early Care and Education, Professional Development and Parent Education and Awareness.

Through Quality First Scholarships and Expansion strategies the Regional Council's intent was to support those families who rely heavily on unregulated home care providers. The regulation of three home care providers was designed to assist in capacity building within the region. The funding of 22 child care scholarships allowed families to meet the high cost of enrolling their child in a licensed or regulated early childhood program.

The Regional Council recognized the important correlation between quality early care, health and early detection and screenings for at-risk children. The Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity and the Recruitment and Retention of Therapist strategy would support not only capacity building but also sustain a vision of a coordinated system of quality early care, intervention and skilled workforce within the region.

Focusing on the continuum of system building within the region, the Regional Council felt the need to recognize both community professionals and the region's families as the most influential teachers to children age birth to five. T.E.A.C.H. scholarships would provide professional development and the opportunity for higher education to the region's early childhood professional workforce. The Community Based Literacy strategy would provide family support to parents and caregivers on the importance of being the primary teacher in their child's life.

The First Things First Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council, with its community partners, continue to work to enhance a system that builds and sustains a coordinated, culturally responsive and supportive network of early childhood programs and health services for the young children of the region.

The tables below provides a summary of the Regional Partnership Council's prioritized needs and strategies for SFY 2012, as well as contracted service numbers, and information on awards made to date.

**II B. SFY 2012 Strategies and Units of Service Review****Colorado River Indian Tribes**

	Strategy Description	Fiscal Year 2012	
		Targeted Units	Contracted Units
<b>Quality and Access</b>	<b>Expansion: Increase slots and/or Capital Expense Strategy</b>		
	Number of center based providers served	0	0
	Number of home based providers served	3	5
	Number of increased slots for participating children	0	20
	<b>Quality First Child Care Scholarships Strategy</b>		
	Number of children receiving scholarships	28	22
<b>Professional Development</b>	<b>Scholarships TEACH Strategy</b>		
	Number of professionals receiving scholarships	2	2
<b>Health</b>	<b>Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity Strategy</b>		
	Number of children served	25	25
	Number of participating adults	25	25
	<b>Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness Strategy</b>		
	Number of participants receiving Stipends and/or Loan Forgiveness	0	1
	Number of therapists receiving loan forgiveness	0	0
	Number of therapists receiving stipends	1	1
<b>Family Support</b>	<b>Community-based Literacy Strategy</b>		
	Number of books distributed	0	0
	Number of children served	0	0
	Number of participating adults	30	25

## II C. SFY 2012 Funding Summary Review

Colorado River Indian Tribes Funding Plan Summary		
Allocations and Funding Sources	2012	
<b>FY Allocation</b>	<b>\$226,704</b>	
Population Based Allocation	\$129,215	
Discretionary Allocation	\$75,257	
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	\$22,232	
<b>Carry Forward From Previous Year</b>	<b>\$153,178</b>	
<b>Total Regional Council Funds Available</b>	<b>\$379,882</b>	
Strategies	Allotted	Awarded
Community-based Literacy	\$30,000	\$25,000
Expansion: Increase slots and/or	\$7,500	\$7,500
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity	\$27,102	\$27,102
Quality First Child Care Scholarships	\$188,144	\$188,144
Recruitment – Stipends/Loan	\$25,000	\$24,987
Scholarships TEACH	\$6,600	\$6,600
Statewide Evaluation	\$6,290	\$6,290
<b>Total Allotted/Awarded/Expended:</b>	<b>\$290,636</b>	<b>\$285,623</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$89,246</b>	<b>\$5,013</b>

## II D. Review of Progress

### Quality, Access & Affordability

Through the Expansion: Increase Slots and/or Capital Expense strategy the Regional Council recognized that family, friend and neighbor care is often the choice of care for families with infants and toddlers. Due to families not being able to meet enrollment criteria such as program fees and age eligibility, only 5 percent of the region's infants and toddlers were enrolled in licensed or regulated child care settings. According to the 2010 Needs and Assets Report there were 6 child care providers within or adjacent to the region. Five of these were center-based and only one of which provided services to infants and toddlers. The region's only existing DES certified home care provider accepted infants and toddlers however it only had the capacity to serve 4 children therefore, approximately 47 percent of the region's children enrolled in regulated child care were preschool age or older. The Expansion strategy was developed to assist child care homes in becoming regulated which in turn would provide the region's families with more quality choices as well as providing opportunities for home care providers to enhance the quality of their services. Funding was made available to assist with insurance costs and offset financial barriers to the region's providers.

The Expansion strategy did not immediately start up due to the length of time to recruit a provider to serve the region. Additionally, the development of a service agreement took time to finalize. In SFY 2012 three potential home care providers applied for certification, to date no participants have completed the certification process. The Regional Council feels that the barriers to strategy implementation are due to a variety of factors, including the Recruitment Specialist being located outside the region as well as service providers being required to follow tribal protocols in the efforts of recruiting child care providers on tribal land. This strategy has not resulted in the addition of any new certified homes within the region.

Quality First Child Care Scholarships have allowed coordination with an existing early child care center to maintain families' access to a licensed early childhood environment. Priority is given to infants and toddlers, low-income families,

single parent families and families with special needs children. The region's child care scholarships have made a positive impact within the community allowing families, who initially could not afford it, to enroll their children in high quality early care. Scholarships were increased by eight in SFY12 with the intent of adding a second child care provider. This provider ultimately elected not to participate. The limited child care capacity in the region meant that out of a total of 28 scholarships funded only 22 scholarships could be utilized in the one center. A total of 40 children benefited from these scholarships.

### **Professional Development**

The Regional Council identified the need to provide funding to support professional development to the region's early childhood teachers and caregiver staff which would enhance the quality of early childhood programs. In SFY11 there was low participation in the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program by the region's child care professionals therefore scholarships were decreased from 4 to 2 for SFY 2012. At the end of SFY 2011, only a portion of the scholarships available to staff were being utilized. The CRIT Head Start program teaching staff were the active participants of T.E.A.C.H. At this time the Head Start Director reported to the Regional Council that Head Start teaching staff have completed their associate's level courses and are now in need of Baccalaureate degrees. The region also has community professionals who do not meet the T.E.A.C.H. requirements. The Parker Unified School District's preschool program operates a limited number of hours per week and program staff do not meet the work hour requirement for T.E.A.C.H.

The Regional Council also attributed lack of response to T.E.A.C.H. as being in part due to the T.E.A.C.H. Specialist being located outside the region, insufficient recruitment and follow-up efforts within the region, limited coordination between T.E.A.C.H. and Quality First and the reluctance on the part of professionals to enroll in college courses. With the current Baccalaureate degree programs being piloted in two regions across the state it is the hope of the Regional Council that this level of degree will become available through T.E. A.C.H. in the near future.

### **Health**

Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Service strategies allow existing health providers to collaborate with community partners to increase access to high quality health care services for special needs children, pregnant women and children, including community education on the importance of early screenings. The Regional Council recognizes the need to address the overall health of children, specifically the risk of obesity and diabetes. With the implementation of the Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity strategy outreach, community awareness and prevention has been expanded to pregnant women and children ages birth to five. Initially the Colorado River Indian Tribes Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) began the implementation of services for this strategy. The DPP staff enrolled in courses to become certified in the area of Diabetes Care and Education. The DPP staff was certified to provide education on diabetes prevention (importance of good nutrition, healthy weight, physical activity) but also perform prevention screenings (finger prick to read blood sugar levels) for pregnant women and children birth through age five and their parents. According to data reports, DPP provided community awareness on nutrition, obesity, and physical activity to 395 families by sponsoring and collaborating in health fairs, community awareness nights and Head Start Parent Nights.

In September of FY12 the Diabetes Prevention Program's federal funding ended and the program was terminated. The CRIT Women, Infants and Children program, which is also part of the CRIT Department of Health Services, assumed responsibility for the Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity strategy implementation. The transition included training of WIC staff on the Scope of Work, Data Reporting and Budget Interpretation. The WIC staff is currently in the process of scheduling community awareness and physical activities for families within the region.

The Recruitment, Stipends/Loan Forgiveness strategy began the recruitment process in SFY 2011 for a therapist who could provide either occupational, speech and language pathology, or physical therapy to serve the region's children with developmental delays. To date there has not been a candidate recruited to implement this strategy. One barrier to recruitment may be the lack of interest of professionals wanting to relocate to a rural community. In SFY12, the LaPaz/Mohave Regional Council added the Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness strategy in which one therapist would be recruited to serve both the CRIT region and the remainder of La Paz County. The cross regional collaboration between the two funding regions was intended to provide greater opportunity to successfully recruit and retain an early intervention therapist to provide services.

## **Family Support**

The Regional Council prioritized supports and services for families through a Community Based Literacy strategy. This strategy would provide the opportunity for the development and enhancement of the region's community family literacy resources to be culturally responsive for parents and care providers of young children.

Collaboration between the Colorado River Indian Tribes Library and the LaPaz County Career Center was established to lay the foundation for this strategy to be implemented. Implementation began in July 2010 with the purchase of equipment and program materials. Two Early Literacy stations were purchased and housed at the CRIT Library. These stations have provided the opportunity for the library to expand its early literacy efforts by providing additional resource tools and community awareness for its participants. The library also purchased 2 additional Brain Boxes, an educational tool for caregivers to use with children from birth to five. Each box contains activity guides and all the materials needed for adult-child interaction that encourages healthy brain development. These additional boxes were placed at the WIC program and the CRIT Children's Residential Center. The Residential Center is a local emergency shelter available to children served by the CRIT Social Services who cannot be placed in relative care or foster home care. The 2010 Needs and Assets Report states 32 children under the age of six were admitted to the Residential Center between the period of November 2009 and September 2010. This represented 63 percent of all children admitted to the center during this period. Training on the Brain Boxes was also provided to both the WIC and the Residential Center staff.

In October of 2011, the CRIT Tribal Council recommended that the Community Based Literacy strategy, continue as a Regional Council priority. The Tribal Council expressed concern about Arizona's new 2014 AIMS requirement which states that third grade students whose AIMS Reading Score indicates they are reading far below the third grade level will not be promoted to the fourth grade. The Tribal Council expressed the hope that the Community Based Literacy strategy would be utilized to educate families and provide tools and resources to assist in meeting this requirement. The Tribal Council also stated that parents and care givers, especially at-risk children who are in Foster Care homes and the region's two shelters, need additional support in meeting this new law. Based on this request from Tribal Council, the Regional Council approved a one-time increase in FY2012 for \$5,000 to purchase additional Brain Box materials for the Colorado River Regional Crisis shelter, to serve children birth to five in that facility.

The LaPaz County Career Center (Career Center) assists adults with General Equivalency Diploma (GED) preparation. Under this strategy the Career Center purchased five laptop computers and software with the intention of recruiting parents of children birth to five who are in need of a GED. It also enhanced the Career Center's literacy program by promoting the importance of family and early literacy within the participant's home environment. The Regional Council recognized the need for these programs to encourage parents and care givers to be the primary teacher of their children but also acknowledged the need to support parents and care provider's literacy levels for this strategy to make a realistic impact. Enhancing literacy skills promotes self-esteem by instilling confidence in being able to read to their children as well as assisting in gaining confidence in completing job applications and other resource forms. It is anticipated the grantee will meet all required service number requirements and impact the community in the area of family support by the end of SFY12.

## **Coordination**

The Regional Council recognized the importance of building public awareness and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among professional partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public. The Region's unfunded Court Team strategy has been very successful with the cross-regional collaboration opportunity with LaPaz/Mohave's funded Court Team strategy. Data reports from FY 2011 indicate 1,483 professionals from the LaPaz/Mohave and CRIT regions attended training sessions. An additional cross-regional collaboration effort with LaPaz/Mohave is within the Community Awareness area. Residents of the CRIT and LaPaz/Mohave regions traverse the boundaries of both regions in order to access services. Through this cross-regional collaboration, the LaPaz/Mohave region's Community Outreach Liaison has provided services to the CRIT area. The Liaison provides a monthly report to the CRIT Regional Council, participates in CRIT community events such as Red Ribbon Week, Week of the Young Child and attends the various network meetings sponsored by CRIT community resource agencies. The Liaison also assists with the CRIT Region's annual Check Presentation ceremonies.



### **Section III. Three Year Strategic Direction: SFY 2013-2015 Regional Funding Plan**

#### **III A. Overview**

The Regional Council utilized the 2010 Needs and Assets Report, Quarterly Data/Narrative Reports, Grantee Presentations, FTF Indicators as well as Stakeholder, Regional Council and CRIT Tribal Council response, for the 2013 strategic planning process. With these supporting tools and resources the Funding Plan Committee made up of four Regional Council members, convened and recommendations were developed and presented to the Regional Council for approval.

The Regional Council revisited the effectiveness of all the current strategies and identified strategies that have not had intended impact. In reviewing the past three year funding cycle, capacity issues, outreach/recruitment and the shift in need appeared to be a common and irresolvable barrier to the successful delivery of some funded areas. Based on these and after extensive consideration, the Regional Council elected to discontinue funding to the following areas:

- Expansion: Increase Slots and/or Capital Expense
- Recruitment- Stipends/Loan Forgiveness
- Scholarships T.E.A.C.H.

The Regional Council looked at those strategies that were making an impact not only within the funded grantee program responsible for implementing the strategy, but whether the scope and reach was benefiting additional community programs and building collaborative partnerships. Therefore, scope and reach were considered not just on a regional scale, but also on a cross-regional collaboration scale. The priority areas Family Support, Early Learning and Health would be recommended for continued funding and include the following:

- Quality First
- Quality First Child Care Scholarships (Addition to the Quality First Packet)
- Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity
- Community Based Literacy (strategy is now Parent Outreach and Awareness)

The Regional Council identified two new strategies that would better serve children and families in the region. The first of these strategies adds a second component to the Parent Outreach and Awareness and would provide training to be delivered to the region's parents, relative and home child care providers through a series of workshops. The second is Scholarships Non-TEACH that would provide opportunities for the school district's para-professional staff to obtain a Child Development Associate credential:

- Parent Outreach and Awareness
- Scholarships non-TEACH

## Section III B.

## Strategic Plan for SFY 2013 – 2015

## Regional Priorities, Selected FTF Indicators and Priority Roles, and Strategies to Achieve Outcomes

Regional Priority to be addressed	School Readiness Indicators Correlated to the needs and priority roles	FTF Priority Roles in the Early Childhood System	SFY 2013-2015 Strategies
<p>Limited access to high quality and affordable early childhood education</p> <p>Limited knowledge and awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health</p> <p>Limited access to parent education and information</p> <p>Need for a more skilled and educated early childhood workforce</p>	<p><b>1.</b> #/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical</p> <p><b>7.</b> #/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI) <i>HLTH-3</i></p> <p><b>10.</b> % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being <i>FS&amp;L-2</i></p>	<p>Supports and Services for Families - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families. <i>FS&amp;L-2</i></p> <p>Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services- Collaborate with partners to support improved nutrition and increased age/developmentally appropriate physical activity levels among young children. <i>HLTH-3</i></p> <p>Supports and Services for Families - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families. <i>FS&amp;L-2</i></p> <p>Building Public Awareness and Support - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public. (<i>PA-1</i>)</p>	<p>Quality First (including CCHC, CC Scholarships, TEACH)*</p> <p>Additional CC Scholarships</p> <p>Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity</p> <p>Parent Outreach and Awareness*</p> <p>Scholarships Non-TEACH*</p>

\* denotes a new strategy or strategy component

**Section III C.****Strategy Descriptions including Target Populations and Funding Levels**

<b>Strategy: Quality First</b>			
<b>Strategy Description:</b> Supports provided to early care and education centers and homes to improve the quality of programs, including: on-site coaching; program assessment; financial resources; teacher education scholarships; and consultants specializing in health and safety practices			
<b>Strategy Narrative</b> <p>The CRIT Regional Council wants to maintain the 2 programs currently enrolled in Quality First. Funding of Quality First will not only allow these two programs to maintain the increased level of quality that the program has provided, but will also allow for the continuation of scholarships for families, allowing them the opportunity to continue enrolling their children in quality early care.</p> <p>According to the 2010 Needs and Assets Report there were 6 child care providers within the CRIT region. Five of these were center-based in which only one provided services to infants and toddlers. The regions only existing DES certified home care provider accepted infants and toddlers however it only had the capacity to serve 4 children. To date, one child care center has closed its doors and another is no longer state licensed, therefore access to regulated child care has become even more limited to this rural region.</p> <p>Within the new Quality First Package there is an average of approximately 7 Quality First Child Care Scholarships. For Fiscal Year 2013, the Regional Council decided to maintain the average slots funded within the past three Fiscal Years by adding regional funding for an additional 13 scholarships. Quality First Child Care Scholarships have been one of the CRIT region's most successful strategies. The region's child care scholarships have made a positive impact within the community allowing low income, single parent and families of children with special needs who initially could not afford it, to enroll their children in high quality early care. The scholarships have provided a continuum of care within a quality early childhood environment which can prepare children to succeed later in life.</p>			
<b>Target Population Description</b> Families with children ages birth to five.			
<b>Target Service Units - Quality First</b>	<b>FY 13</b>	<b>FY 14</b>	<b>FY 15</b>
Number of center based providers served	2	2	2
Number of home based providers served	0	0	0
<b>Funding Levels</b>	<b>FY 13</b>	<b>FY 14</b>	<b>FY 15</b>
Quality First	\$36,112	\$36,112	\$36,112
Child Care Health Consultation	\$5,040	\$5,040	\$5,040
Scholarships TEACH			
QF Child Care Scholarships	\$121,441	\$121,441	\$121,441
<b>Target Service Units - Child Care Health Consultation</b>	<b>FY 13</b>	<b>FY 14</b>	<b>FY 15</b>
Number of center based providers served	2	2	2
Number of home based providers served	0	0	0
<b>Target Service Units - Scholarships TEACH</b>			
Number of professionals receiving scholarships	4	4	4
<b>Target Service Units - QF Child Care Scholarships</b>			
Number of children receiving scholarships	20	20	20

<b>Strategy: Quality First Child Care Scholarships (addition to QF package)</b>
<p><b>Strategy Narrative</b></p> <p>Provides scholarships to children to attend quality early care and education programs.</p> <p>The Regional Council's intent is to provide additional scholarships that will closely align to the current level. In SFY12 22 scholarships were contracted with one of the region's licensed center, with a total of 40 children benefiting from these scholarships.</p>
<p><b>Target Population Description</b></p> <p>Provide scholarships to the one eligible regional child care center. The focus is serving infants and toddlers.</p>

<b>Strategy: Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity</b>			
<p><b>Strategy Description</b></p> <p>Provides health education focused on obesity prevention to children, families and early care and education professionals.</p>			
<p><b>Strategy Narrative</b></p> <p>The Regional Council recognized the need to address the overall health of children, specifically the risk of obesity and diabetes. Through outreach, community awareness and prevention education this strategy aims to reach pregnant women and children age birth to five. Prevention education would include the importance of healthy weight, physical activity and the need for early screenings (finger prick to read blood sugar levels) for pregnant women and children birth through age five.</p> <p>With the transition of this strategy into the WIC program, it is the hope that community collaboration will be enhanced to ensure the continuation of prevention of obesity and diabetes effort. Transition of the Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity strategy implementation has included training of WIC staff on the Scope of Work, Data Reporting and Budget Interpretation. The WIC Director has indicated the supplemental funding of the NOPA grant funds will allow for the program to expand on the populations served as well as allowing for the creation of a physical activity schedule for pregnant and post-partum women. It will also enhance their outreach efforts by educating fathers on the importance of breast feeding, so early childhood development and health can be supported as a family unit.</p>			
<p><b>Target Population Description</b></p> <p>The 2010 Needs and Assets indicated the CRIT region had a total population of 720 children under the age of six. This strategy proposes to reach 30% of families of this service population, which includes pregnant woman.</p>			
<b>Target Service Units</b>	<b>FY 13</b>	<b>FY 14</b>	<b>FY 15</b>
Number of Participating Adults	216	216	216
<b>Funding Level</b>	<b>FY 13</b>	<b>FY 14</b>	<b>FY 15</b>
	\$27,102	\$27,102	\$27,102

**Strategy: Parent Outreach and Awareness****Strategy Description**

Provides families with education, materials and connections to resources and activities that promote healthy development and school readiness.

**Strategy Narrative**

Under the Parent Outreach and Awareness strategy two major components will be implemented: Early Literacy and Family, Friends and Neighbors Education Workshops.

**Early Literacy Workshops**

The regions 2010 Needs and Assets Report states that fourth graders in Arizona are in the lowest 20 percent of the nation in reading, demonstrating the need to promote increased early literacy levels. The Regional Council recognizes that the literacy level of parents and care providers may need to be enhanced in order to support their child's early literacy development. This strategy combines an early literacy program and related activities for children and parents as well as increasing the literacy skills of parents. The literacy program will impact the community by promoting the importance of family and early literacy within the participant's home environment which can later result in lower dropout rates. The Regional Council recognized the need for these programs to encourage parents and care givers to be the primary teacher of their children but also acknowledged the need to support adult literacy levels for this strategy to make a realistic impact.

In October of 2011, the CRIT Tribal Council recommended that this strategy remain a priority in light of Arizona's new 2014 AIMS requirement which states 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students whose AIMS Reading Score indicates they are reading far below the 3rd grade level will not be promoted to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The Tribal Council also stated those children who are in foster care homes and the region's two shelters need additional support in meeting the requirements of this new law. Based on this request from Tribal Council, the Regional Council approved a one-time SFY12 additional allotment of \$5,000 to increase early literacy services including the purchase a Brain Box to be placed at the Colorado River Regional Crisis Shelter. This shelter reported that 51 children ages birth to five were housed at their facility within the last year. Facility staff will also receive training and support in the effective use of the Brain Box materials. The current grantee has successfully piloted the use of Brain Boxes with parents and caregivers of young children. Brain boxes are an educational tool which contains age-appropriate activity guides and materials needed to promote adult-child interaction that encourages healthy brain development and sets the stage for early literacy.

The Regional Council is also proposing an additional funding increase of \$20,000 for SFY13 to allow the library to expand its capacity by adding an Early Literacy Coordinator who would deliver services in a variety of locations in the region. With additional funding the target service numbers will increase to thirty (30) families. The region is proposing that a government to government grant agreement be developed to implement this component of the strategy.

**Family, Friends and Neighbors Workshops:**

The Regional Council recognized that family, friend and neighbor child care home providers are often the choice of care for the CRIT region's families and there is a significant need to support this population in caring for young children. The 2010 Needs and Assets indicated the CRIT region had a total population of 720 children under the age of six. The Needs and Assets also stated there were six child care providers within the region with 290 capacity slots available for children ages birth to five. Since that time one of the providers has closed. Therefore it is estimated that approximately 440 of the regions children are cared for by unregulated providers. This strategy proposes to reach 30% (132) of those families whose children are being cared for by FFN providers by providing quarterly workshops. Additionally, there are limited opportunities in the community for parents to learn about the importance of early childhood development. To address these issues the Council developed a strategy which could provide a vital support to parents and caregivers of young children.

This strategy strengthens families with young children by providing voluntary classes in community-based settings. The workshops will be offered to the region's parents, relatives and home child care providers in a series of sessions over the course of the year. The region is proposing to develop a FTF-directed strategy for this component which would develop the curriculum, identify and contract with trainers and provide a minimum of four sessions over the course of the year. Outreach will be conducted and incentives would be provided to participants to ensure their attendance throughout the series of training sessions. The sessions would provide information on topics such as:

- 1) Child development
- 2) Home Safety
- 3) Establishing and maintaining a daily schedule for the children;
- 4) Early learning and literacy. Encouraging providers to utilize the resources of their local library;

Knowledge and access to community resources

#### **Target Population Description**

The target population prioritized is families of children age birth to five years. The 2010 Needs and Assets indicated the CRIT region had a total population of 720 children under the age of six. The early literacy component of this strategy will reach thirty (30) families. The Family, Friends and Neighbors component will reach 132 families in the region including parents of young children and unregulated child care providers.

<b>Target Service Units</b>	<b>FY 13</b>	<b>FY 14</b>	<b>FY 15</b>
<b>Number of Parents Participating</b>	162	162	162
<b>Funding Level</b>	<b>FY 13</b>	<b>FY 14</b>	<b>FY 15</b>
	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000

#### **Strategy: Scholarships non-Teach**

##### **Strategy Description**

Provides scholarships for higher education and credentialing to early care and education teachers.

##### **Strategy Narrative**

The CRIT Region has child care professionals who do not meet the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship requirements. The Parker Unified School Districts preschool program staff do not work sufficient hours per week to qualify for TEACH scholarships.

The Professional Career Pathways Program (PCPP) would assist the school districts para-professional staff to improve their professional skills which would support providing quality care and education to children 5 and younger. The program would provide scholarships to the district's early education professionals to attend college courses on a part-time basis to obtain Certified Child Development Associate.

Scholarships for college-credit coursework are one method of creating access to higher education for low-income workforce that lacks the financial means to afford college. Scholarships enable the early childhood workforce to take coursework leading to credentials and degrees by making it possible for them to afford the expense of going to school.

##### **Target Population Description**

This strategy is designed to serve child care providers in the region with a priority on the employees of the Parker Unified School District pre-school programs.

Target Service Units	SFY 13	SFY 14	SFY 15
Numbers of Participating Professionals	2	2	2
Funding Level	SFY 13	SFY 14	SFY 15
Community Based Professional Development Early Care	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500

Strategy: Statewide Evaluation			
<b>Strategy Description</b> Statewide Evaluation includes the studies and evaluation work which inform the FTF Board and the 31 Regional Partnership Councils. Examples include: the baseline Needs and Assets reports, specific focused studies, and statewide research and evaluation on the developing early childhood system.			
<b>Strategy Narrative</b> First Things First has, and is growing, a multi-level system of research and evaluation strategies designed to be responsive to the informational needs of varied stakeholder groups, including the First Things First Board, Regional Partnership Councils, and Arizona citizens. The research and evaluation system is designed to provide both depth and breadth of high quality information, from collecting programmatic data to evaluating the overall impact of the First Things First Early Childhood System model. The system provides a framework for conducting statewide and regional studies centered on identifying current and changing needs of families and children birth to five, and the impact of programs and strategies across all First Things First priority areas. The First Things First research and evaluation system is a knowledge building system, designed to advance the understanding of needs, activities, and effectiveness. Individually and collectively, research and evaluation strategies generate data and findings which can be used to identify trends and changes in school readiness indicators and therefore to support strategic planning and decision-making which promotes the health and well-being of young children.			
Target Service Units	SFY 13	SFY 14	SFY 15
No target service units identified for this strategy			
Funding Level	SFY 13	SFY 14	SFY 15
Statewide Evaluation	\$6,290	\$6,290	\$6,290

**Section III D. Proposed Funding Summary**

SFY 2013 - 2015 Regional Partnership Council Budget

**FY 2013 - 2015**  
**Colorado River Indian**  
**Funding Plan Summary**

Allocations and Funding Sources	2013	2014	2015
<b>FY Allocation</b>	<b>\$227,338</b>	<b>\$227,793</b>	<b>\$228,647</b>
Population Based Allocation	\$125,912		
Discretionary Allocation	\$72,971		
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	\$28,455	\$227,793	\$228,647
<b>Carry Forward From Previous Year</b>	<b>\$89,246</b>	<b>\$59,099</b>	<b>\$29,407</b>
<b>Total Regional Council Funds Available</b>	<b>\$316,584</b>	<b>\$286,892</b>	<b>\$258,054</b>
Strategies	Proposed Allotment	Proposed Allotment	Proposed Allotment
Child Care Health Consultation	\$5,040	\$5,040	\$5,040
Scholarships non-TEACH	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity	\$27,102	\$27,102	\$27,102
Parent Outreach and Awareness	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Quality First	\$36,112	\$36,112	\$36,112
Quality First Child Care Scholarships	\$121,441	\$121,441	\$121,441
Statewide Evaluation	\$6,290	\$6,290	\$6,290
<b>Proposed Allotment Total:</b>	<b>\$257,485</b>	<b>\$257,485</b>	<b>\$257,485</b>
<b>Total Unallotted</b>	<b>\$59,099</b>	<b>\$29,407</b>	<b>\$569</b>